

FREE
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BATMAN AND SUPERMAN



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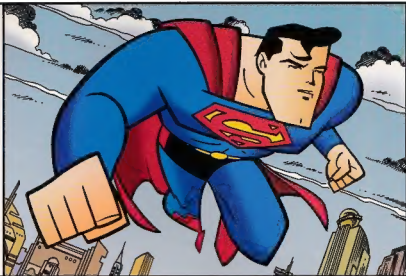


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Planet in Peril

Superman is the hero of Metropolis, fighting to save its citizens from the perils of the city. But he is also Clark Kent, reporter on the *Daily Planet*.



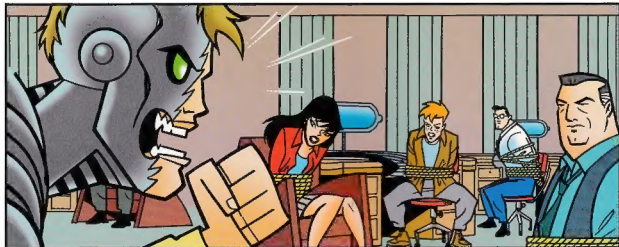
Lois Lane was bored. There was no exciting news to report in the *Daily Planet* newspaper.



"Where's my latest story, Lois?" asked Perry White, editor of the paper. "There must be some news!"



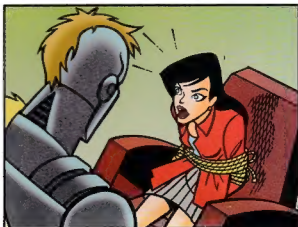
Right at that moment, Metallo, sworn enemy of Superman, burst into the office of the *Daily Planet*. Now **this** was news!



Metallo knew that Superman would try to rescue everyone at the office. This was his big chance to trap the Man of Steel.



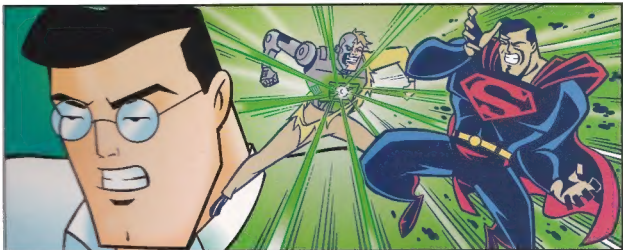
Clark wondered how he could become Superman without being seen. He had to stop Metallo.



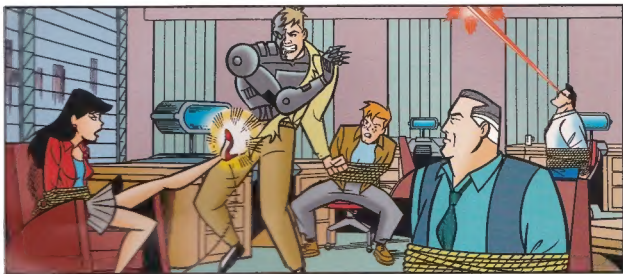
"You'll never get away with this!" exclaimed Lois. "You don't stand a chance against Superman!"



Metallo planned to destroy Superman with his secret weapon — kryptonite. This substance was deadly to the Man of Steel!



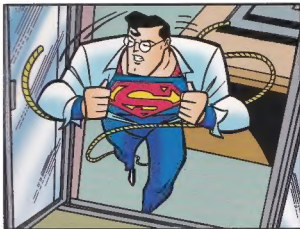
Metallo had tried to destroy Superman with kryptonite before, but Clark knew that the villain would fail this time too.



While Metallo was busy with an angry Lois Lane, Clark took his chance.



Clark set off the sprinkler system. The confusion gave him the chance to escape from the office.



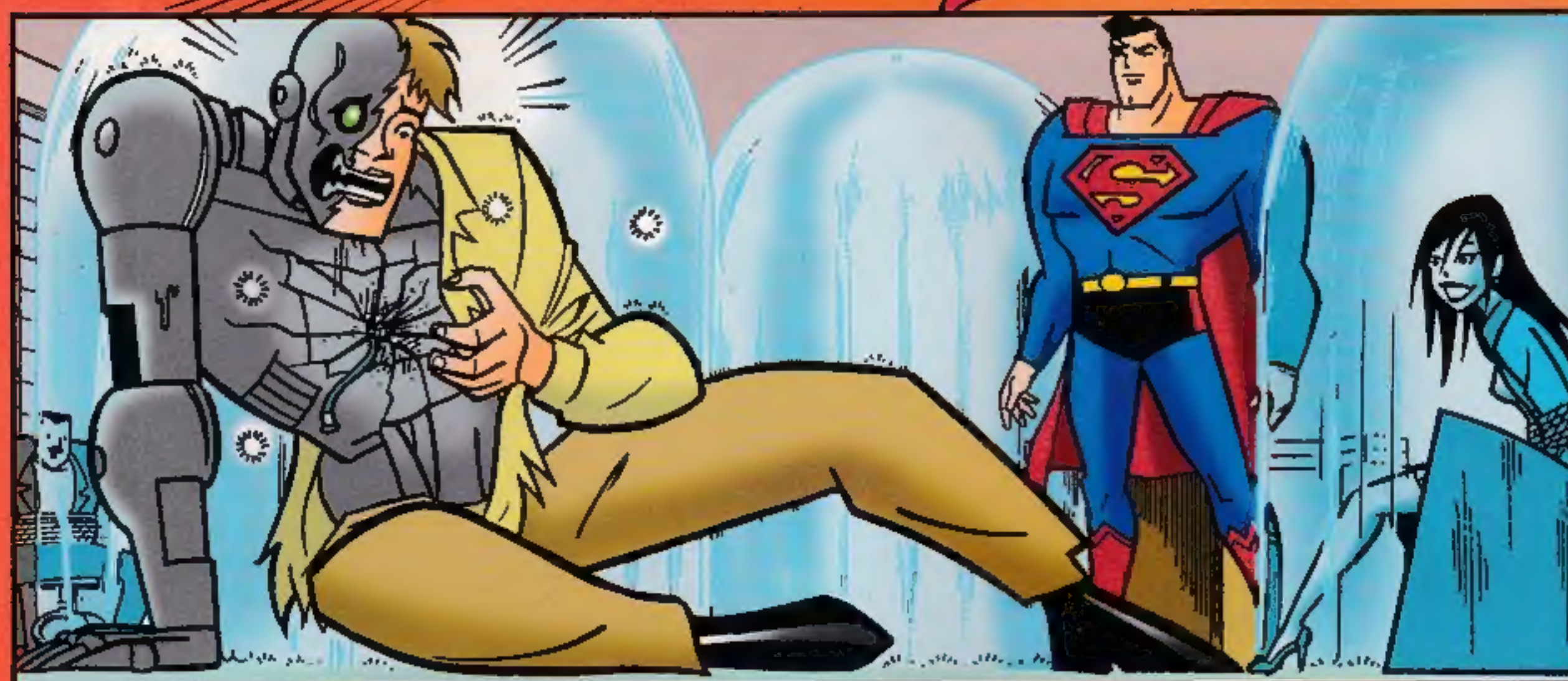
Clark sneaked out through an open window, changing into Superman as he made his escape.



In the blink of an eye, Superman was on the scene, ready to do battle with the angry Metallo!



"Superman! Watch out!" screamed Lois as Metallo began his attack. "He has kryptonite!"



The kryptonite was locked in Metallo's chest. "It's useless, Metallo," said Superman. "You can't hurt me now!"



The excitement was over, and Lois finally had her story. But she couldn't find Clark anywhere.



"Superman's arrival knocked me into the next room!" Clark said. "And you missed a great story," laughed Lois.

The Tigress of India

Batman sent Commissioner Gordon a message to meet him at the city's museum late one night. Batman wanted to examine the museum's new security system.

"Evening, Commissioner," said Batman, as they met outside the dark museum. "I hope your security system can protect the museum's new exhibit. And you'll be glad to know that while I'm here, Batgirl and Robin are looking after the city."

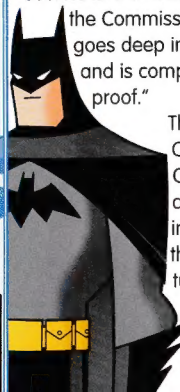
Inside the building Batman could see beams of light in front of him, criss-crossing the whole room. "This is our first line of defence," the Commissioner told him.

"Anyone crossing these light beams will set off the alarms and the outer door will be locked automatically."

Commissioner Gordon used a key to turn off the light beams and he and the Dark Knight crossed the room. In the centre of the room there was a tall glass tube running from floor to ceiling. Inside it, a beautiful diamond called the *Tigress of India* sat on a black velvet cushion.

"The glass tube is our second line of defence," said the Commissioner. "It goes deep into the floor and is completely bullet proof."

Then Commissioner Gordon put another key into a lock at the foot of the tube. Slowly the tube sank into the floor.



"And there's still one more alarm system," said the Commissioner. "The column that the diamond stands on is weight sensitive, so that if you remove the gem you will set the alarms off." With that the Commissioner selected a third key and turned the device off.

"Well, what do you think, Batman?" he asked. "With a name like *Tigress*, I was afraid Catwoman might not be able to resist such a jewel."

"And she couldn't!" said Batman grimly, as he picked the diamond up in his hands. "Commissioner, this is a fake! Come with me and I'll show you the real *Tigress of India*!"

At that very moment, Robin and Batgirl were climbing into the window of Catwoman's lair. They silently dropped onto the floor just as Catwoman turned to face them, holding the diamond in her hands.

"What have we here?" asked Catwoman, coolly. "Ah, it's Batman's little

helpers, the little bird and the little bat," she purred.

"Yes, Catwoman," answered Robin, "and we've come for the *Tigress of India*."

But just then, he felt a kick in the back of his legs. Catwoman's thugs were lurking behind Robin and Batgirl, ready to protect their boss. Robin twisted round and grabbed the thug, bringing him down hard onto the floor where he lay dazed. A second thug lunged at Batgirl, who threw him over her



head and onto the floor behind her. Then Batgirl and Robin jumped up in time to grab the last two thugs and banged their heads together, sending them spinning to the floor. All of Catwoman's men lay helpless.

Batgirl grabbed hold of Catwoman from behind, so that she couldn't move. "How did you find me?" she hissed at Robin.

"I'll take over from here," replied the Dark Knight, landing on the floor in front of them as the Commissioner and his men came bursting through the door. Catwoman was completely surrounded.

Batman explained to everyone how he, like his feline foe, had been thinking ahead. When Batman had discovered that the *Tigress of India* was coming to Gotham City, he had planted a microtransmitter in its carrying case so that if it was stolen during the journey he would be able to track it down.

When Catwoman

did just that, the microtransmitter led Robin and Batgirl straight to her lair, while Batman went to the museum to teach the Commissioner a valuable lesson about security. Robin and Batgirl were perfectly capable of holding Catwoman until Batman arrived to rescue the diamond.

"It pays to plan ahead," Batman told the scowling cat-thief as Commissioner Gordon led her away. "You've just got to know how far ahead to plan."

THE END 

